



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than \$432,000 Received for Bioterrorism Preparedness Funding

Special funding of \$432,286 has been received by the Sedgwick County Health Department for bioterrorism preparedness, from Centers for Disease Control through Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The funding is available to all Kansas counties, through an allocation formula based in part on population. Additional incentive money will be awarded based on successful proposals to regionalize the response effort among county groupings, including planning, preparedness and enhanced capacity for disease surveillance and epidemiology.

Uses of this money will focus on communications and information technology, risk communications, the dissemination of warnings and health information to the public and the education and training of personnel.

This funding will develop a coordinated community response to the possibility of terrorism or other mass casualty incidents. These funds augment and integrate with systems already in place in Sedgwick County, such as the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).

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The MMRS is a community partnership of more than 50 separate entities in addition to Sedgwick County, including area hospitals, local school systems, all 20 cities within Sedgwick County, business and industry, state and federal organizations, and the private health care community (pharmacists and physicians).

Although the funding is being awarded with terrorism in mind, virtually all of the increase in services and capability will serve peacetime public health functions as well.

“It is imperative that Sedgwick County be prepared in the case of an emergency and the Sedgwick County Health Department and our 24/7 Response Team are working together to accomplish this,” said Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. “Though Sedgwick County has been continually planning, this grant will help our efforts in keeping the community safe.”

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